

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 00858 100519Z

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ACTION NEA-09

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R 100415Z FEB 75
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TO USDOC WASHDC
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BMEP, AF

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: NATURAL GAS USES

REF: STATE 28532

1. EMBOFF PHONED TOUFIQI 9 FEBRUARY IN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN ANSWERS FOR QUESTIONS IN REFTEL. TOUFIQI AGREES LARGE-SCALE INTEGRATED ECONOMIC STUDY OF RESOURCES DESIRABLE BUT SAYS QUOTE THIS WILL COME AFTER EACH PROJECT IS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY UNQUOTE. POST AGREES WITH REFTEL THAT THIS APPROACH AWKWARD FROM PLANNING STANDPOINT.

2. AS TO FEASIBILITY STUDY ON NATURAL GAS, POST FEELS TOUFIQI BASICALLY WANTS INFORMATION ON ALTERNATIVE USES OF GAS. TOUFIQI TELEGRAM OF 5 FEBRUARY TO EBASCOE SHEDS SOME LIGHT ON THIS MATTER. TELEGRAM QUOTED BELOW. QUOTE IN PURSUANCE OF OUR CABLE OF RYC 1 FEB, WE DEEM IT NECESSARY TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS ON THE SUBJECT MENTIONED ABOVE. WE HAVE TWO KINDS OF NATURAL GAS IN OUR DISPOSAL WITH THE FOLLOWING INGREDIENTS:

1. SPECIFIC WEIGHT 585 PERCENT, METHANE 94 PERCENT, ETHANE 3 PERCENT, CARBON-DIOXIDE 0.8 PERCENT, NITROGEN 2.2 PERCENT.

2. METHANE 85 PERCENT, ETHANE 4.5 PERCENT, HYDROGEN-SULPHUR 1.21 PERCENT, OXIDE-SULPHUR 0.03 PERCENT,
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CARBON-DIOXIDE 6.89 PERCENT, NITROGEN 2.40 PERCENT.

PLEASE WRITE US BY AIR MAIL POSSIBILITIES OF LIQUIDIFICATION AND MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PLANT SIZE AT AN EARLIEST DATE. ALSO, WE ARE INFORMING YOU ABOUT THE SPECIFICATION OF THE GAS EXISTING IN OUR COUNTRY. WE ARE TOLD BY SOME FOREIGN EXPERTS THAT THIS KIND OF GAS IS NOT LIQUIDIFIABLE WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND AS FROM OUR GENERAL INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION WE ARE NOTICING THAT TODAY THE M.A.N. COMPANY IS TRYING TO USE THIS KIND OF GAS FOR TOWN BUSES ON EXPERIMENTAL BASIS. WE ARE SURE ABOUT THE USE OF THIS KIND OF GAS FOR INDUSTRIAL USES, PARTICULARLY FOR ELECTRIC AND POWER GENERATING PURPOSES. IF WE BECOME ABLE TO USE THIS KIND OF GAS AS POWER GENERATING OR FUEL OUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMY WILL CHANGE ITS PHASE VERY RAPIDLY. THEREFORE, WE ARE CONTEMPLATING FOR THE USE OF THE ABOVE SPECIFIED GAS AND WILL BE READY TO SEND SAMPLE BY AIR MAIL BALLONS FOR YOUR FURTHER RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION. BEFORE YOUR VISIT WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR TECHNICAL AND ECONOMICAL COMMENTS TO THE KIND OF GAS THAT WE HAVE. UNQUOTE

3. HOPE THIS CLEARS UP SOME CONFUSION. BASICALLY GOA WANTS TO KNOW WHAT ITS GAS CAN DO AND AT WHAT COST. GIVEN AFGHAN INEXPERIENCE WITH GAS USES, POST FEELS US FIRM AWARDED FEASIBILITY STUDY CONTRACT WOULD HAVE MUCH FREEDOM IN DESIGNING EMPHASIS AND SCOPE OF STUDY.

4. TOUFIQI IN RECEIPT PROCON LETTER BUT HAS NOT RPT NOT RECEIVED TELEX. POST ADVISES AGAINST PROCON SENDING REP TO KABUL IMMEDIATELY SINCE TOUFIQI AWAITING DECISION FROM MINPLANNING CONCERNING NATURAL GAS PROJECT. TOUFIQI SAYS MID-MARCH WOULD BE GOOD TIME FOR PROCON REP TO VISIT. APPARENTLY MARCH 20 DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS MENTIONED KABUL 563 DOES NOT APPLY TO NATURAL GAS PROJECT.

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